

RESOLUTION No. 2011-06-15-1

**TOWN OF TUSAYAN RESOLUTION
TO SUPPORT EFFORTS BY THE AIR TOUR INDUSTRY IN THE NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

WHEREAS, the air tour industry has existed at the Grand Canyon since 1927; and

WHEREAS, air tour providers have been a positive community partner to the Town of Tusayan;
and

WHEREAS, the air tour industry provides hundreds of local jobs and over 1,250 jobs in the
states of Arizona and Nevada; and

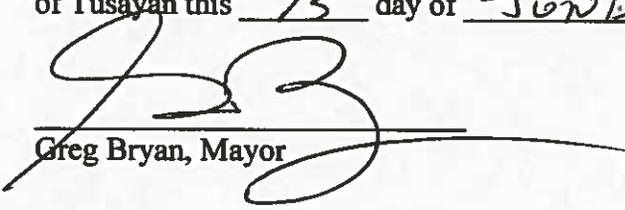
WHEREAS, air tour providers have proactively invested over \$100 million in new quiet
technology that have a positive impact on restoration of natural quiet at the Grand Canyon; and

WHEREAS, the air tour industry has met and exceeded every metric with regard to natural quiet
restoration to date; and

WHEREAS, the air tour industry has devoted significant resources to marketing the beauty and
majesty of the Grand Canyon to people all over the world.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Tusayan hereby supports, by way a
letter to the National Park Service (attached), its commitment to maintaining a strong partnership
with the air tour industry to oppose NPS's Preferred Alternative And Draft EIS To Further
Restrict Air Tours Above Grand Canyon National Park, In Response To 76 Fed. Reg. 6496 (Feb.
4, 2011).

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Town Council of the Town
of Tusayan this 15 day of JUNE, 2011.

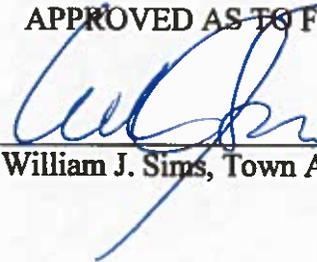


Greg Bryan, Mayor

ATTEST:

William B. Sutton, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



William J. Sims, Town Attorney

RESOLUTION No. 2011-06-15-01

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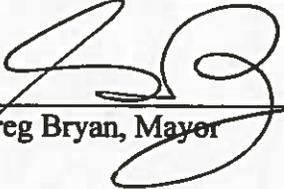
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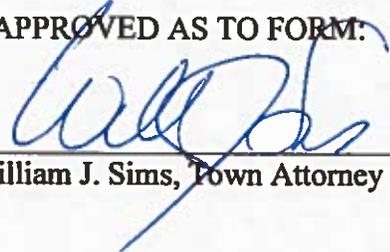


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ATTEST:

William B. Sutton, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



William J. Sims, Town Attorney

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

As town council members for the Town of Tusayan, we believe new rules proposed in the National Park Service's Draft Environmental Impact Statement regarding flight noise could seriously jeopardize an invaluable local industry. Air tour providers have been a positive community partner and economic engine to the Town of Tusayan. Nearly one in seven park visitors experience the Grand Canyon by air.

Aside from the tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world who fly over the Grand Canyon every year, air tour providers also work closely with bus tours that bring people to the area as well, bringing incremental visitors, and their expenditures, to Tusayan and the surrounding area. Helicopter tours appeal to a high-value traveler who not only stays in Tusayan and the Grand Canyon National Park, but also explores the area's myriad amenities – further stimulating the local economy.

A large proportion of our visitors who explore other areas of the state take day trips or overnight trips to the Grand Canyon. Therefore, a strong and competitive helicopter tour industry is an important addition to Northern Arizona's tourism product offerings and boosts our appeal to a worldwide audience.

The air tour industry employs over 1,250 people in Arizona and Nevada, and last year the air tour providers spent nearly \$7 million in employee wages, and over \$14 million in goods and services purchased from Arizona vendors. Additionally, the air tour industry last year spent over \$1.5 million in marketing the beauty and majesty of the Grand Canyon to people all over the world.

The National Park Service's preferred alternative to restore natural quiet to the Grand Canyon is concerning. If this plan is fully implemented, an industry that has served millions of people is at risk. The economic impact to the air tourism industry, and Tusayan's local economy that relies on tourism revenues and tourism-related jobs, will be significant.

The preferred alternative arbitrarily contains many elements that do little-to-nothing to reduce audible noise, but will have incredibly adverse effects on air tour companies and their employees. It proposes an 11.3% reduction in annual flight time, seasonal closures of some of the most popular air tour routes and wholesale elimination of others, and a daily cap on flights on top of a 31% reduction in existing flight annual allocations.

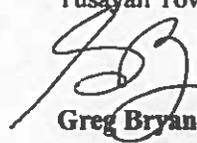
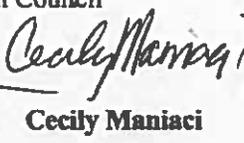
Our local economy simply can't afford these kinds of restrictions on such a vital industry to our town.

Air tour operators in Arizona have played by the rules and even surpassed every metric of natural quiet restoration to date. Now, they are being punished for doing so. Arizona's economy depends on tourism that showcases our wonder of the world in all its splendor.

We strongly believe the right of air tour operators to do just that should be protected. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Tusayan Town Council

				
Greg Bryan	Cecily Maniaci	Bob Blasi	Al Montoya	John Rueter
Mayor	Vice Mayor	Council Member	Council Member	Council Member

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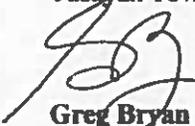
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